

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00402 01 OF 02 070714Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W
-----070716Z 067347 /11

R 061645Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3349

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0402

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, MILL, NS
SUBJ: SURINAM INTEREST IN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

REF : (A) STATE 95699, (B) STATE 80723

1. IN ACCORDANCE REF A, EMBASSY ON APRIL 29 FURNISHED GOS DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION DE MIRANDA FULL DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION OF CARIBBEAN AREA SERVICE AS PROVEDDED IN REF B.
2. ON MAY 5 AMBASSADOR AND POL/ECON OFFICER MET FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR WITH SURINAM MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BRUMA WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DE MIRANDA AND ALSO BY MR. B. TH. MAES, DIRECTOR OF GOS-OWNED SURINAM AIRWAYS (SLM).
3. MINISTER BRUMA BEGAN MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT SURINAM EXPECTS INCREASING CONTACT WITH US IN YEARS AHEAD AND IS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT BOTH TO COPE WITH AND TO FACILITATE THIS INCREASED CONTACT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND NOTED GOS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS AT LEAST BEGIN BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LATTER PART OF THIS YEAR.
4. AMBASSADOR REPLIED ALONG LINES PARA 3 REF A AND NOTED GOS
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00402 01 OF 02 070714Z

SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT USG WOULD NEED ADEQUATE TIME TO CONSIDER GOS REQUEST AND TO PREPARE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE AGREED TO. EMPHASIZED THAT USG NOT LIKELY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SIMPLY ADD ONE MORE CARRIER TO ROUTES ALREADY BEING FLOWN OR WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE ELEMENT OF PROFITABILITY FOR AMERICAN CARRIER.

5. BRUMA TURNED THE FLOOR OVER TO MAES FOR EXPLANATION OF WHAT SLM HAD IN MIND. MAES, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM DE MIRANDA, DESCRIBED SLM'S IMMEDIATE INTEREST AS MORE IN FREIGHT THAN IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC. HE SAID SLM ALREADY HAS, AND HAS HAD FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, FREIGHT ACCESS TO MIAMI AREA IN COOPERATION WITH A CURACAO FREIGHT FIRM, CLTM, WHICH HAS A "402 CERTIFICATE" ENABLING IT TO CARRY FREIGHT FROM MIAMI ALTHOUGH NOT TO ADVERTISE THIS SERVICE. UNDER THESE RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS, SLM IS NOW BRINGING IN FREIGHT AT THE RATE OF THREE AND A HALF MILLION POUNDS PER YEAR. THERE IS ONE SCHEDULED FLIGHT EACH WEEK DEVOTED SOLELY TO MIAMI-PARAMARIBO FREIGHT AND ADDITIONAL FREIGHT IS CARRIED ON OTHER FLIGHTS FROM MIAMI TO CURACAO FOR CONSOLIDATION AND PICKUP BY SLM THERE. IF SLM HAD REGULAR LANDING RIGHTS AT MIAMI AND COULD ADVERTISE FREIGHT SERVICE, SAID MAES, HE WAS CONFIDENT PRESENT TONNAGE COULD BE GREATLY INCREASED. SERVICE IS NOW BEING USED BY SURALCO (SUBSIDIARY OF ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA) FOR COMPUTERIZED SHIPMENT OF PARTS AND SUPPLIES AND ALSO BY MORRISON-KNUDSEN, WHICH IS PRIME CONTRACTOR ON RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION IN WESTERN SURINAM. MAES INDICATED HIS PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WITH CLTM GIVES UNDUE SHARE OF REVENUES TO LATTER, AND, IN ANY EVENT, EXPIRES NEXT MONTH IN JUNE. SLM IS THEREFORE EXCCEDINGLY ANXIOUS TO BEGIN FREIGHT SERVICE ON ITS OWN ON MIAMI-PARAMARIBO ROUTE.

6. MINISTER BRUMA SAID GOS WAS CONSIDERING ALLOWING SLM TO APPLY ON ITS OWN FOR "402 CERTIFICATE" BUT HAD HELD OFF BECAUSE IT WAS UNSURE IF THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING BILATERAL WITH USG. HE ASKED THAT THIS QUESTION BE CLARIFIED AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO DO SO.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00402 01 OF 02 070714Z

7. ON PASSENGER TRAFFIC, MAES INDICATED THAT MORE PERSONS TRAVELED BETWEEN NEW YORK ADN PARAMARIBO THAN BETWEEN MIAMI AND PARAMARIBO. SLM IS THEREFORE INTERESTED IN RIGHTS AT NEW YORK AS WELL AS AT MIAMI. THEY WOULD NOT PROPOSE TO OPERATE ON THEIR OWN AT FIRST, BUT UNDER COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH AMERICAN COMPANY. HE INDICATED PRELIMINARY TALKS HAD ALREADY BEEN HELD WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES (WHICH NOW SERVICES CURACAO FRTM NEW YORK) ON THIS POSSIBILITY.

8. AMBASSADOR ASSURED BRUMA HE WOULD QUERY WASHINGTON AS TO WHETHER APPLICATION BY SLM FOR "402 CERTIFICATE" WOULD IN ANY WAY AFFECT HOLDING OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT ADVISED BRUMA, IN ANY EVENT, NOT TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EITHER BEGINNING OR SUCCESSFUL CONSLUSION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

9. COMMENT: THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE ARE COGENT REASONS WHY USG SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN RESPONSE TO GOS PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS. WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT AIR FREIGHT

BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO FIRMS HERE AND IS MUCH DEPENDENT UPON.
WE AGREE WITH MAES' CONCLUSION THAT FREIGHT WOULD GROW AT EVEN
FASTER RATE IF SLM HAD REGULAR LANDING RIGHTS AND COULD ADVER-
TISE ITS SERVICE. SURALCO AND MORRISON-KNUDSEN, BOTH AMERICAN
FIRMS, DEPEND TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE ON THIS FREIGHT AND FUTURE
US EXPORTS TO SURINAM WOULD ALSO UTILIZE THIS SERVICE.

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00402 02 OF 02 070712Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
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R 061645Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PARAMARIBO 0402

10. IN ADDITION TO COMMERCIAL FACTORS, THERE ARE MILITARY AND
POLITICAL REASONS WHY USG SHOULD GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN
MEETING SURINAM'S DESIRES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO AGREEMENT NOW IN
EFFECT PROVIDING SUCH RIGHTS, US AIR FORCE PLANES REGULARLY
STAGE THROUGH PARAMARIBO FOR TELEMETRY SUPPORT OF SATELLITE
LAUNCHINGS OVER SOUTH ATLANTIC. OTHER US MILITARY AIRCRAFT
USE PARAMARIBO FOR SUPPORT FROM TIME TO TIME. RECENT ACTION BY
GOS IN GIVING PROMPT APPROVAL TO OUR REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF
DOD-CONTRACT AIRCRAFT ON ROUTE TO ZAIRE WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES
WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN MATTERS
OF US INTEREST. WHILE THIS COOPERATION HAS IN NO WAY, EXPLICIT-
LY OR IMPLICITLY, BEEN CONNECTED BY GOS WITH THEIR CIVIL
AVIATION REQUEST, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE LESS
COOPERATION IF WE ARE NOT THOUGHT TO BE RESPONSIVE IN TURN.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) DEPT SHOULD GIVE AS RESPONSIVE AS
POSSIBLE FORMAL REPLY TO GOS NOTE REQUESTING NEGOTIATIONS.
EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SURINAM ELECTIONS
THIS FALL SHOULD CAUSE US TO SPEED UP WHATEVER TIMETABLE MIGHT
OTHERWISE BE APPROPRIATE, (B) DEPT IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE
EMBASSY EXACTLY WHAT A "402 CERTIFICATE" IS, WHAT PRIVILEGES
IT PROVIDES, WHETHER IT IS LIKELY SLM COULD QUALIFY FOR SUCH
A CERTIFICATE WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, AND, PARTICULAR-
LY, WHETHER AN APPLICATION BY SLM FOR SUCH A CERTIFICATE

WOULD HAVE ANY ADVERSE AFFECT ON GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS.

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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00402 02 OF 02 070712Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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